Roman Stock Characters

  
The **adulescens** was the hero, who is young, rich, love-struck and none too brave. He tends to bemoan his fate and requires backup. Another character often has to take action on his behalf. His father is often the senex or old man, whom he fears, but does not respect.

The **senex** has several incarnations. As the father he is either too strict or too soft; either one he does out of love for his son. He never gets the girl and is often dragged off by his irate wife. He is often a miser.

The **miles gloriosus**, literally braggart soldier, is a character that is especially familiar today. He loves himself more than anything else and sees himself as handsome and brave, while in reality he is very stupid, cowardly, and gullible. He may be interested in the same girl as the adulescens.

The **servi** (slaves) take up about half of the cast and often have the most monologues. The servus callidus or clever slave is always talkative, but his other traits vary. Most of the time he is loyal, more so to the adulescens than the senex. He brings tricks and comedy and tends to drive the plot. He is often the one who finds the truth out at the end of the play. He could be identified by his tendency to use alliteration and meter in his speech.

The **meretrix** (experienced woman) is either a mercenary or devoted. The first type is older or more experienced and has seen a lot. The second type is truly in love with the adulescens. Both are very attractive with a complex hairdo and outfit, which is yellow. She also has a mantel.

The **virgo** (young maiden) is the love interest of the adulescens, but does not get much stage time. She is beautiful and virtuous with little personality. She is treated as a prize.

The **matrona** – (mother)

Loves her children but is tempermental towards her husband.

Does not have to be devoted and loyal, but sometimes is.

Your task is to match the Roman Stock Character with the characters in *INTO THE WOODS*. They may not fit with the exact right description; do your best.

Write the ROMAN STOCK CHARACTER next to each *INTO THE WOODS* character.

Roman Stock Characters: Characters in *INTO THE WOODS*

1. Virgo (young girl) a. PRINCE/WOLF ­­­­\_\_\_

2. Adulescens (young man) b. CINDERELLA’S FATHER \_\_

3. Miles Gloriosus (braggart soldier) c. THE WITCH ­­­­\_\_\_

4. Senex (old father) d. BAKER’S WIFE ­\_\_\_

5. Meretrix (experienced woman) e. JACK \_\_\_

6. Matrona (mother/wife) f. CINDERELLA ­\_\_\_

7. Servi (brings tricks and drives the plot) g. MYSTERIOUS MAN \_\_\_\_

 